Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

March 22, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden President of the United States The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Ave N.W. Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

We are writing to express our strong support for the efforts of a coalition of Ukrainian Americans to transport approximately 600 Ukrainian orphans, together with their caretakers, from Lviv to a temporary stay in the United States. Their aim is to establish an educational camp for these children in an adequately equipped U.S. facility until conditions permit them to return to their home country of Ukraine.

We acknowledge that this would be a complex operation involving the orphans and their caretakers securing transit out of Ukraine and necessary Government of Ukraine approvals related to the safe movement of orphans; processing of visas for those who are eligible by the Department of State or the identification of other possible mechanisms, such as humanitarian parole through USCIS, to facilitate their entry into the United States; an agreement with the Department of Defense to allow the use of a military facility for these purposes; and additional support from the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Health and Human Services, and other Federal departments and agencies as required. We ask that you work with us to identify the best path forward to address the safety concerns of these vulnerable Ukrainian orphans and to convene the necessary U.S. Government agencies and resources to ensure success.

As Vladimir Putin's regime continues to wage an illegal war of aggression against Ukrainian civilians, we have seen increasingly flagrant violations of international humanitarian law—including the shelling of hospitals, schools, residential apartment buildings, and at least one orphanage. Given this situation, it is clear to us that any viable efforts to safely evacuate children and other vulnerable members of the Ukrainian population for humanitarian purposes should receive our fullest support.

Thank you for your consideration of this urgent request. We look forward to working with you, the relevant federal agencies, and our constituents to facilitate this effort.

Sincerely,

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Susan Wild Member of Congress Gregory W. Meeks Member of Congress Michael T. McCaul Member of Congress

Gerald E. Connolly Member of Congress

David N. Cicilline Member of Congress Raul Ruiz Member of Congress

Ann Wagner Member of Congress Brian Fitzpatrick Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Antony J. Blinken Secretary of State U.S. Department of State 2201 C Street N.W. Washington, D.C. 20520

The Honorable Lloyd Austin Secretary of Defense U.S. Department of Defense 1300 Defense Pentagon Washington, D.C. 20301

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas Secretary of Homeland Security U.S. Department of Homeland Security 2707 Martin Luther King Jr Ave S.E. Washington, D.C. 20528

The Honorable Xavier Becerra Secretary of Health and Human Services U.S. Department of Health and Human Services 200 Independence Ave S.W. Washington, D.C. 20201